

**AFTER**

Fish passage restored by the  
Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force.

PHOTO / LAURA TILL, WDFW



**BEFORE**

Tributary to East Fork Hoquiam River.

# Family Forest Fish Passage Program

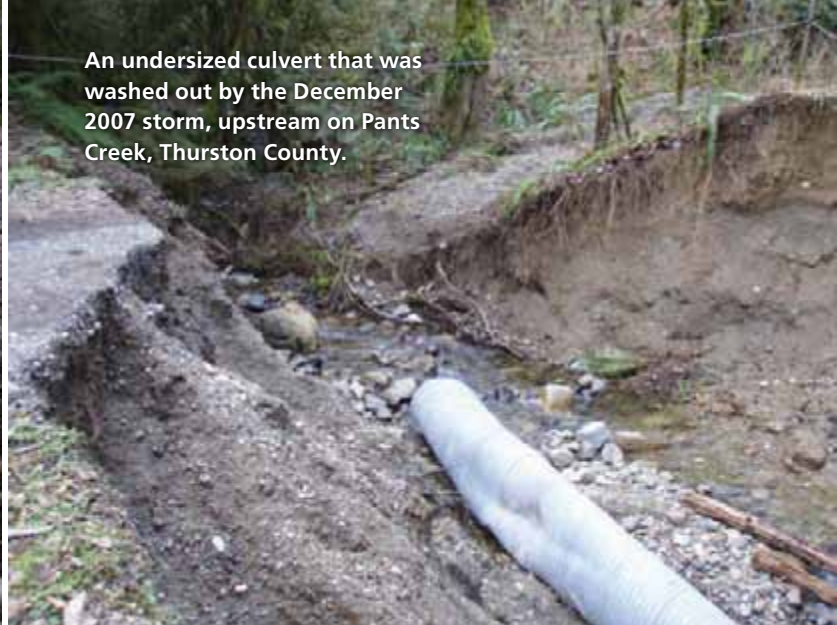
2008 Implementation Report

**Five Years of  
Helping Small Forest  
Landowners and  
Washington's Fish**





A bridge installed with FFFPP funding that weathered the December 2007 storm, Pants Creek, Thurston County.



An undersized culvert that was washed out by the December 2007 storm, upstream on Pants Creek, Thurston County.

PHOTO: LAURA TILL, WDFW

**R**emoval of fish passage barriers around Washington can help to restore declining salmon and trout populations. A fish passage barrier is a human-made structure, often associated with a road crossing.

As barriers across the state are fixed, access to miles of vital habitat is restored. The goal is to have all fish passage barriers on state and private forestlands corrected by 2016.

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program has been opening habitat for Washington's fish and helping small forest landowners for 5 years!

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFPP), funded by the legislature, offers financial and technical assistance to small forest landowners across the state interested in correcting fish barriers on their land. Fish barriers are often undersized culverts or other structures on forest road crossings over streams.

To date, the FFFPP has funded the correction of over 180 fish barriers that open over 430 miles of habitat to salmon, steelhead, trout, and other native fish species throughout Washington. We're finding

adult and juvenile fish in upstream stretches where they haven't been seen in years!

The average cost of a project is \$64,618 and the average habitat gain is 2.23 miles. In 2009, the FFFPP aims to complete 28 barrier corrections.

Land managers recognize that forest roads have an impact on the health of our streams and fish if they are delivering sediment to streams or blocking fish movement. Forest roads often cross streams over undersized or improperly installed structures, such as culverts, that create fish barriers. These barriers prevent fish from accessing upstream spawning and rearing habitat that is critical for the health of the fish populations.

In 1999, legislation was created that requires all forest roads to

be brought up to new forest roads standards. In 2003, the Family Forest Fish Passage Program was created to provide financial and technical assistance to small forest landowners to repair their fish barriers. The program is administered by Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program pays 75-100 percent of the cost of removing a fish barrier and replacing it with a fully fish passable structure such as a larger culvert or bridge.

## FFPP Projects Survive December 2007 and 2008 Storms

In December of 2007 and 2008, large rain and wind storms occurred in western Washington that destroyed many stream crossings. When correcting a fish barrier, the new structure not only needs to allow for fish passage, but must also be able to stand up to flooding and let logs and debris pass downstream. The Family Forest Fish Passage Program has been planning projects with this in mind and we're proud to report that out of over 100 projects that we've completed in western Washington, we've only had to perform repairs on 3 structures. The rest handled high water flows and debris movement very well.





Known fish barriers



Known fish barriers after survey

## Funded Projects *(as of January 09)*

PROJECT LOCATION/COUNTIES	FUNDED SITES	HABITAT OPENED (STREAM MILES)
OLYMPIC PENINSULA / CLALLAM / JEFFERSON	19	26.66
LOWER COLUMBIA AND WILLAPA RIVER / WAHKIAKUM / CLARK / COWLITZ / SKAMANIA / KLIKITAT / YAKIMA / PACIFIC	27	84.75
CHEHALIS RIVER / GRAYS HARBOR / LEWIS	42	89.04
NORTH PUGET SOUND / WHATCOM / SKAGIT / SAN JUAN	16	16.56
MID-PUGET SOUND / KING / KITSAP SNOHOMISH / ISLAND	15	17.11
SOUTH PUGET SOUND / MASON / THURSTON / PIERCE	24	53.05
NE WASHINGTON / KITTITAS / CHELAN / FERRY OKANOGAN / STEVENS / PEND OREILLE / SPOKANE	32	124.77
SE WASHINGTON / WALLA WALLA / COLUMBIA / GARFIELD / ASOTIN	7	27.28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>439.26</b>

## The Process

Landowners apply to the program by submitting a simple application to DNR (contact info on last page). DNR makes sure the barrier is on a fish bearing stream on forest land. WDFW determines the amount of fish habitat a project will open and the species that would benefit. Each year the Family Forest Fish Passage Program funds the correction of about 30 of the highest priority barriers around the state. RCO provides contract administration and financial accounting for each project.

## Looking Ahead – Locating Washington’s Fish Barriers and Increasing Correction Capacity

Continuing program success depends on evaluating and prioritizing landowner’s stream crossings. The Family Forest Fish Passage Program hopes to complete a comprehensive stream barrier inventory in a number of watersheds in the coming years. An inventory will enable the program to contact the owners of fish barriers in an effort to get them to apply to the program.

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program works with over 30 conservation groups from around the state to serve as local sponsors for each of our projects. To increase the number of projects completed each year requires recruitment of additional sponsors to increase workload capacity.

When a landowner applies to the FFFPP, an upstream survey takes place. An 8.5 mile walk in the Turner Creek drainage helped the FFFPP to locate 12 fish barriers that were previously missing from the statewide database.

IMAGE AND DATA SOURCE: LAURA TILL, WDFW

**// This effort is a fine example of public and private cooperation for the good of nature and people.”**

**ROB HODEMAN**

KING COUNTY LANDOWNER

## Fish Passage Team

The Fish Passage Team, which manages the day-to-day program implementation, is made up of representatives from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), and the Recreation & Conservation Office/Salmon Recovery Funding Board (RCO/SRFB).

Through the team, the agencies work cooperatively on all aspects of the program. DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office is the main point of contact for program information. DNR provides outreach, determines eligibility, coordinates additional funding sources and match, and decides which projects receive funding.

WDFW evaluates and ranks projects and provides technical assistance on project design. RCO/SRFB administers the funding. The Fish Passage Team provides a coordinated approach to implementation of the program.

## Local Groups are Key to the Program

Local groups experienced in fish passage corrections complete most of the projects. Correcting a fish barrier is often a complicated and time-consuming process. Project management is conducted by organizations familiar with grant management, permitting and fish barrier correction. The entity managing a funded project is called a sponsor. A sponsor may be:

- ▶ A conservation district, regional fisheries enhancement group, local fish-related non-profit organization, tribe, etc., or:
- ▶ The landowner, if he or she wishes to manage all aspects of the project

Working with a sponsor minimizes a landowner's work. Sponsors manage the project design, permitting, construction oversight, billing, and grant management for the landowner.

Fish passage professionals are available to assist the sponsor in designing and managing the project.

**// If our FFFPP project hadn't been installed last summer, we'd have been stranded with a flooded roadway for four days this past winter. After the waters receded, significant repairs would have been needed to our old structure, and there certainly wouldn't have been much fish movement. //**

**CHUCK BOOTH**  
PACIFIC COUNTY LANDOWNER

## Project Sponsors

### REGIONAL FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT GROUPS

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group  
Mid-Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group  
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Group  
Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition  
South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group  
Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group  
Stilly-Snohomish Task Force  
Tri-State Steelheaders  
Willapa Bay Fisheries Enhancement Group

### CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Clallam Conservation District  
Clark Conservation District  
Cowlitz Conservation District  
Ferry Conservation District  
Jefferson Conservation District  
Kitsap Conservation District  
Lewis County Conservation District  
Mason Conservation District  
Okanogan Conservation District  
Pacific Conservation District  
Pend Oreille Conservation District  
Spokane County Conservation District  
Stevens County Conservation District  
Thurston Conservation District  
Underwood Conservation District  
Wahkiakum Conservation District

### TRIBES

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation  
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe  
Nooksack Indian Tribe  
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians  
Tulalip Tribes  
Yakama Nation

### OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND LANDOWNERS

Chinook Engineering  
Fisheries Consultants  
Frame, LLC  
Hoh River Trust  
Kittitas Conservation Trust  
Pacific Forest Management  
PB Lumber  
Pursley Family  
Stewardship Partners  
Streamworks  
Waterfall Engineering  
Wild Fish Conservancy

## Agency Contact Information

How do I apply to the program or get more information?

To apply to the program, or to get more information, visit:  
[www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov) and search for Small Forest Landowner Office.

## Program Partners

### PROGRAM OUTREACH

#### Department of Natural Resources Small Forest Landowner Office

Natural Resources Building  
1111 Washington Street  
PO Box 47012  
Olympia, WA 98504-7012  
Contact: Scott Potter (360) 902-1404  
TTY: (360) 902-1125  
[www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov)

### PROJECT EVALUATION AND RANKING

#### Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Program

600 Capitol Way  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091  
Contact: (360) 902-2352  
TTY: (360) 902-2207  
[www.wdfw.wa.gov](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov)

### PROGRAM FUNDING

#### Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Natural Resources Building  
PO Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917  
Contact: (360) 902-2649  
TTY: (360) 902-1996  
[www.rco.wa.gov](http://www.rco.wa.gov)

### LANDOWNER ORGANIZATION

The Washington Farm Forestry Association joins the agencies on a steering committee.

#### Washington Farm Forestry Association

PO Box 1010  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
Contact: Sherry Fox (360) 520-6010  
[www.wafarmforestry.com](http://www.wafarmforestry.com)

